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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/309,747	05/11/1999	CORNELIS G.J. VAN DEN AKER	6185	7923

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EXAMINER

TRINH, MINH N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/309,747

Applicant(s)

VAN DEN AKER, CORNELIS G.J.

Examiner

Minh Trinh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 37-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 40, 46 and 49-52 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 37-39, 41-45, 47, 48, 53 and 54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed in paper No. 17 (dated 10/15/2001) has been fully considered and made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 37-39, 41-45, 47-48, and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

It is not clear whether the claimed of a press block is part of the tool or the connector?

The scope of claims 37-39 and 41-48 is not clear whether the terminals is part of the invention, i.e. the recites of "a length of the terminal"(claim 37, lines 3-4), "receives a corresponding one of said terminal" (claim 45, lines 9-10), etc.,

The recites "can extend"(claim 37, line 7), "are also defined"(claim 38, line 2), "without a loss of contact position"(claim 44, lines 2-3) are not positive structure claims.

The recites limitations "said front face "(claim 45, lines 6), "said vertically disposed open area"(claim 53, line 1-2), "said front face"(claim 54, line 6), lack proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 37-39, 42-45, 48 and 53-54 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US patent 4,446,727 to Glover et al.

Glover et al teaches the press block of the present invention which including a generally planar base 54, a plurality of discrete openings 52 through the base and the plurality of discrete openings arranged in plurality of rows and column (figures 2-3, shows openings arranged in row (cross pattern) and (vertical pattern), discussed at col. 2, lines 40-45), each openings receives a respective one of the terminals (as shown in figure 10) so that the terminals can extend through the base (see embodiment of figure 6, where terminals 96 extended through the base), and plurality of parallel side walls 42, 44 extending from edges of the base and defining at least two open areas between the side walls in communication with the openings in the base, the open area having a cross sectional area larger than the cross sectional area of the openings in the base (figure 2-3, col. 2, lines 36-44).

Limitations of claims 38-39 and 42-45 and 48 are also met as set forth above.

Regarding claim 44, Glover et al teach the second stackable mating press block 92 without a loss contact position (see Figure 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 41 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glover et al

Glover et al as advanced above meets every structural of the claimed invention limitation except for the material structural of the press block. However, composite of a polymer and fine grain metal or metal injection molded is old and well known in the art.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice since the applicant has not disclosed that the use of a polymer and fine grain metal solves any stated problems or is for any particular purposed and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any equivalent conventional as taught by the provided prior art.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments have been acknowledged.

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 37-39, 41-45, 47-48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Trinh whose telephone number is (703) 305-2887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (703) 308-1789. The fax phone numbers for

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the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7307 for regular communications and (703) 305-3579 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

mt
December 13, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PETER VO', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

**PETER VO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700**